Message Text

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS:PGOV, BQG, AKB, GW

SUBJECT:LOT HIJACKING JURISDICTIONAL QUESTION: BRITISH DEMARCHE

REF: (A) STATE 225179; (B) BONN 16045; (C) BONN 16039; (D) STATE 225264

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1. UK EMBASSY OFFICER (SOUTAR) CALLED ON CE DIRECTOR WOESSNER SEPTEMBER 6 TO REITERATE BRITISH VIEWS PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED IN BONN GROUP AND TO PARALLEL FRENCH DEMARCHE OF SEPTEMBER 4. SOUTAR SAID PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN HAD TAKEN NOTE OF EXCHANGES ON SUBJECT AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SEEING THAT TRIAL OF HIJACKERS BE SEEN TO BE EFFECTIVE SO THAT BONN SUMMIT DECLARATION WOULD BE SEEN

TO BE EFFECTIVE.

- 2. SOUTAR INDICATED THAT UK HAD BEEN PREPARED TO CONCUR IN EXTRADITION TO POLAND, OR IN EFFECTIVE GERMAN TRIAL. POSITION ON GERMAN TRIAL HAD CHANGED FOLLOWING VON BRAUNMUEHL'S PRESENTATION IN BONN GROUP RAISING POSSIBILITY THAT BERLIN COURT MIGHT ACQUIT HIJACKERS, OR TREAT THEM VERY LENIENTLY. IT THEREFORE SEEMED TO BRITISH THAT SUCH TRIAL WOULD NOT BE THE EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST HIJACKERS THEY DESIRE.
- 3. CE DIRECTOR WOESSNER MADE ESSENTIALLY SAME POINTS HE HAD MADE TO BOYER (STATE 225264) AND SOUTAR PROMISED TO RELAY THEM TO LONDON. WOESSNER ELABORATED ON POINT THAT TRIAL BEFORE U.S. JUDGE WAS NO GUARANTEE THAT HIJACKERS WOULD BE TREATED LESS LENIENTLY, AND MENTIONED THAT BERLIN PRESS EDITORIALS SEEM TO HAVE RECOGNIZED THAT HIJACKING IS SERIOUS CRIME AND MUST BE DEALT WITH SERIOUSLY REGARDLESS OF SYMPATHY ONE MIGHT FEEL FOR SOMEONE FLEEING FROM EAST. HE NOTED THAT FRG HAS AS MUCH AT STAKE AS ANY OF US IN SEEING THAT BONN DECLARATION BE GIVEN REAL MEANING.
- 4. WOESSNER ALSO NOTED THAT WE HAD GIVEN NEW INSTRUCTIONS TO OUR BONN GROUP REPRESENTATIVE WHICH WE HOPED WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR ALLIES AND FRG TO AGREE WITH US CONFIDENTIAL

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(STATE 225179). HE NOTED ESPECIALLY THAT WE PROPOSED TO LIMIT GRANT OF JURISDICTION NARROWLY, AND WERE PREPARED TO DO IT EITHER IN USUAL MANNER OR JOINTLY WITH ALLIES, PERHAPS AS BK/O. HE NOTED WE EXPECTED BONN GROUP TO MEET TODAY (SEPTEMBER 6). HE AND SOUTAR BOTH NOTED THAT GERMANS WERE CONSIDERING MATTER AT HIGH LEVEL TODAY AS WELL, ALTHOUGH NEITHER HAD RECEIVED ANY WORD OF RESULTS OF EITHER GERMAN CONSIDERATION OR BONN GROUP MEETING.

5. WOESSNER SAID WE HOPED THESE ARGUMENTS WOULD PERSUADE HMG TO AGREE TO OUR POSITION AND THAT FRG AND FRENCH WOULD GO ALONG TOO. HE STRESSED THAT US PLACED GREAT IMPORTANCE ON ACHIEVING ALLIED CONSENSUS ON THIS, ESPECIALLY SINCE WE WOULD HAVE TO STAND TOGETHER TO MEET THE INEVITABLE SOVIET REACTION. CHRISTOPHER

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